

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 /115 W
-----107645 150627Z /73

R 141928Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6023
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION GENEVA

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GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

GENEVA FOR US MTN DEL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, NU
SUBJECT: NICARAGUAN POSITION IN MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 53449; (B) STATE 51922; (C) GENEVA 2904;
(D) STATE 24987

BEGIN SUMMARY: GN HAS NOT FOCUSSED MUCH ON MTN MATTERS OVER PAST
SEVERAL WEEKS OWING TO VARIOUS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. IT IS NOW DISCUS-
SING WITH ITS CACM PARTNERS THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMULATING A COMMON
POSITION AT GENEVA. WE HAVE STRESSED THE NEED TO ACT QUICKLY.
ACTION REQUESTED: HOW MAY WE RESPOND TO GON INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER
THE USG MIGHT ACCORD NICARAGUA SPECIAL TREATMENT IN MTN, AS OPPOSED
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TO WHAT THE US OFFERS OTHER CACM COUNTRIES, INASMUCH AS NICARAGUA
IS THE ONLY CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY WHICH IS A MEMBER OF GATT.
END SUMMARY

1. AS NOTED IN REFTEL C, NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED
OVER PAST TWO MONTHS WITH VARIOUS DOMESTIC MATTERS AND HAS NOT FO-
CUSSED ON NEED TO PUSH AHEAD WITH MTN. IN GENERAL, GON HAS BEEN

CONTENT T LET ITS PARTNERS IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET (CACM) TAKE THE LEAD IN DEVELOPING A JOINT POSITION ON MTN ISSUES. IN ADDITION, THE RESTRUCTURING OF CABINET AND SUBCABINET LEVEL JOBS SINCE FIRST OF JANUARY HAS RESULTED IN DROPPING OF LUIS MAJIA GONZALEZ, FORMER VICE MINISTER OF ECONOMY, WHO WAS THE GON OFFICIAL MOST UP-TO-DATE ON MTN MATTERS. NO ONE WITH HIS BREADTH OF EXPERIENCE HAS YET APPEARED ON LOCAL HORIZON.

2. RAFAEL GUTIERREZ AVENDANO, THIRD SECRETARY IN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ECONOMIC SECTION, IS CURRENTLY ONLY GON OFFICIAL WE KNOW WHO HAS ANY APPRECIABLE EXPERIENCE IN MTN FIELD. EMBOFF REVIEWED STATUS OF US OFFERS IN MTN WIT HIM, DRAWING ON REFTELS, AND STRESSED NEED FOR NIC-ARAGUA, WHETHER SEPARATELY OR IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER CACM COUNTRIES, TO PUT FORWARD ITS POSITIONS ONVARIOUS ISSUES, INCLUDING ANY CONTRIBUTIONS THAT NICARAGUA AND THE CACM MIGHT MAKE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. GUTIERREZ SAID THAT HE WOULD BE PARTICIPATING IN A SIECAAS SPONSORED MEETING OF CACM COUNTRIES IN GUATEMALA DURING WEEK OF MARCH 13-17 AND THAT HE WOULD STRESS THERE THE NEED FOR THE CACM TO DEVELOP WHAT HE HOPED WOULD BE A RESPONSIVE POSITION. HE UNDERTOOK TO INFORM EMBOFF AS TO THE RESULTSOF THE GUATEMALA MEETING UPON HIS RETURN.

4. GUTIERREZ SAID THAT HE CONSIDERS THE U.S. FORMULA (REF A) FOR TARIFFS ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS ACCEPTABLE TO THE GON BUT THAT A FINAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITION WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH THE CACM.

5. GUTIERREZ POSED A QUESTION WHICH HE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY TO RELAY TO WASHINGTON. INASMUCH AS NICARAGUA IS THE ONLY CACM COUNTRY WHICH IS ALSO A MEMBER OF GATT, DOES THE USG CONTEMPLATE ACCORDING ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT TO NICARAGUA? THUS FAR, HE NOTED, THE USG HAS MADE A GLOBAL TARIFF REDUCTION OFFER TO THE CACM BUT NONE TO NICARAGUA SPECIFICALLY. HE SAID THAT HE PERCEIVES NO ADVANTAGE TO NICARAGUA BY VIRTUE OF ITS GATT MEMBERSHIP. ACTION 43173 53\$ WHAT MAY WE REPLY TO HIM? IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS FEELING, THAT NICARAGUA AS A MEMBER OF GATT SHOULD RECEIVE SPECIAL AND MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT, HAS BEEN A PERSISTENT THEME IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH RELEVANT GON OFFICIALS OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS AT LEAST. SOLAUN

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